

his contribution to Alabama's economic well-being. He deserves the mantle of Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year.

**ADOLPH KOEPPPEL HONORED BY
THE TILLES CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS**

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents of the fifth congressional district, the overseers of the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, and the countless friends and supporters of the arts as they gather on May 10 to honor Adolph Koepfel.

Adolph Koepfel has served as a distinguished and dedicated member of the Tilles Center since its inception. This week, he will receive the first Gilbert Tilles Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of Mr. Koepfel's ongoing sponsorship of the annual Tilles Center engagement of the New York City Opera National Company. Beginning next fall, a Tilles Center Scholarship Award will be made annually in honor of Adolph and Rhoda Koepfel to encourage the development of young artists and of new audiences for the arts.

Adolph Koepfel's devotion to the cultural life of Long Island is matched by his dedication to his profession. As the founding partner of Koepfel Martone Leistman and Herman, Mr. Koepfel has emerged as a leading tax certiorari attorney, and has gained wide recognition for his legal prowess among those practicing law in New York, the District of Columbia, and Florida. Indeed, Mr. Koepfel has established a reputation that readily emerges as a yardstick by which countless future legal efforts must be measured. His published works are voluminous and are used by practitioners as guideposts to addressing complex tax-law issues.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals with a career so intense and demanding as Adolph Koepfel's who can readily take a hobby and make it into a second career. Yet Adolph Koepfel has turned his love of philately into a professional endeavor. He has produced four books on the tax revenue stamps of India, and will soon be publishing a fifth volume that will serve as the definitive work on Italian fiscal stamps.

Yet of all his accomplishments and achievements in a career so diverse and time-consuming, Adolph Koepfel's personal achievements are his crowning success. He and his wife, Rhoda, are the parents of two exceptional daughters, Pamela and Lesley, who have in turn blessed the Koepfels with three granddaughters, Melissa, Jennifer, and Tara.

Mr. Speaker, it is at a time such as this, when our country eagerly searches for heroes

who readily bring forth those strong values so endearing and meaningful, that we are enriched by Adolph Koepfel's enormous contributions of leadership, scholarship, and family love. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join with me in this most deserving salute to Adolph Koepfel.

**CONGRATULATING FIFTH WARD
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
CORP. AND BANK UNITED FOR
SELECTION AS OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
AWARD**

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corp. and Bank United for their selection as one of the Nation's outstanding community redevelopment partnerships. They are being recognized this week by the Social Compact as recipients of the Outstanding Community Investment Award. This award is given to partnership-based organizations and individuals for exceptional achievement and leadership serving and investing in the future of American neighborhoods. This partnership is the first Texas-based initiative to be recognized by the Social Compact, a coalition of leaders from throughout the financial services industry who have joined forces to increase investment in America's lower income neighborhoods.

The Fifth Ward is one of Houston's poorest neighborhoods, but it has a rich history and great potential. Home to the late Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, as well as George Foreman, Joe Sample, and the Jazz Crusaders, it is located in close proximity to downtown. Once the vibrant heart of Houston's oldest and largest African-American community settled by freed slaves at the end of the Civil War, it is a community with a rich heritage and an indelible tradition of strong religious leadership. But hard numbers conjure up a different image: median income is just \$7,600; 62 percent of the residents live in poverty; and 800 vacant lots and abandoned houses litter the community.

In this environment of opportunity and challenge, the Fifth Ward CDC and Bank United Partnership has ventured to help the community reclaim its heritage as a neighborhood of choice. In an area that has not seen any new construction in 50 years, the partnership has built 77 new homes. Their strategy has been to construct high quality homes that will attract both middle-class families drawn to the neighborhood's rich history and downtown location, while also creating affordable home ownership

opportunities so minimum-wage families can begin building an equity stake in the community. The Fifth Ward CDC has established their own construction company, which has allowed them to limit housing cost to about \$10,000 below what commercial developers would charge. It has also provided 27 full-time jobs for neighborhood residents.

The Fifth Ward CDC and Bank United have formed a truly exceptional partnership that can serve as a model for other communities. They should be commended for their vision, their readiness to take risk, and most of all, for investing resources to help this community reclaim its heritage as a vibrant neighborhood of choice.

**HONORING HEBREW HOSPITAL
HOME**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Hebrew Hospital Home has had as its mission, since its founding, the care and nurturing of the chronically ill and frail elderly. It has succeeded splendidly at this and celebrates its 20th anniversary of moving to its present location by announcing the good news that it will break ground on a 16,000 square foot addition adjacent to its building.

The Hebrew Hospital Home has expanded from its original 50 beds since its founding in 1928 to a capacity of 480 beds, an expansion made possible by the 1977 move to its present facility in Co-op City. The range of medical aid offered by this non-sectarian home includes on-site medical, dental, laboratory, radiology, ophthalmology, podiatry and pharmacy services. There are also specialized rehabilitative services such as physical and occupational therapy and speech and hearing services.

It has a highly trained professional staff of 650 persons of which 20 per cent live in the community. The Hebrew Hospital Home also has two state of the art outreach programs which recognize the desire of many elderly to stay in their own homes. It also developed the first and most innovative program to deal with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, a program providing services in the evening, the most difficult time for many of these patients. The Home also provides social work services and recreational services which range from on-site beauty salons and barber shops to trips to Broadway and other locations.

A society is truly valued by how it treats its elderly. The Hebrew Hospital Home is a shining example of how it should be done. I salute them on their anniversary and their expansion.